



PGY1 PHARMACY PRACTICE RESIDENCY

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS GREATER LOS ANGELES HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

Introduction



The VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System (VAGLAHS) is the largest and among the most complex medical centers in the nation. It provides a full spectrum of acute and long term inpatient and ambulatory care to approximately 1.4 million veterans residing in the primary service area of Los Angeles, Ventura, and Kern Counties, covering 20,000 square miles. The VAGLAHS consists of one tertiary care facility, two ambulatory care centers, and nine community based outpatient clinics. VAGLAHS is affiliated with both UCLA School of Medicine and USC School of Medicine, as well as more than 45 colleges, universities, and vocational schools in 17 different health care related programs.

The *West Los Angeles Healthcare Center* is a tertiary care teaching facility dedicated to providing a wide array of acute and ambulatory patient care services to our nation's veterans. The comprehensive diagnostic and treatment services provided include a broad range of medical, surgical, and psychiatric care. Internal medicine subspecialties include cardiology, infectious

diseases, gastroenterology, allergy, pulmonology, nephrology, endocrinology, rheumatology, and hematology/oncology. Major surgical subspecialties include orthopedics, urology, neurosurgery, ophthalmology, plastics, ENT, podiatry, and cardiothoracic surgery. In addition to the main acute care hospital, there is a 180-bed Nursing Home, a new Hospice Unit, and Home-Based Primary Care.

The *Sepulveda Ambulatory Care Center & Nursing Home* offers a state-of-the-art ambulatory care facility. The center has specialty outpatient programs in spinal cord injury, stroke rehabilitation, women's health, preventative medicine, dentistry, mental health, and chemical dependency. Extended care activities include a 120 bed Academic Nursing Home and a Home-Based Primary Care Program. The facility hosts extensive clinical and basic science research, including Geriatric Research Education and Clinical Center (GRECC) and Field Program for Health Science Research and Development (HSR&D). The HSR&D program evaluates provider practice and patient outcome studies in the delivery of ambulatory health care.



The *Los Angeles Ambulatory Care Center* is located in the heart of Downtown Los Angeles. It serves as a centrally located facility for the diverse veteran population of the City of Los Angeles, focusing on primary care and mental health services. The clinic provides special services in post-traumatic stress disorder, day treatment, medical service, and mental health services.



General Information

The PGY1 Pharmacy Practice Residency at VAGLAHS was first established in 1952 and is considered the first postgraduate pharmacy program in the nation. It is a twelve-month long, ASHP accredited program that offers a diverse hospital residency program with emphasis on clinical pharmacy activities. This residency is structured to give the resident a well rounded clinical experience in both acute medicine, ambulatory care, and pharmacy administration.

Pharmacists completing this residency will be competent and confident practitioners in multiple patient-care environments. They will be accountable for achieving optimal drug therapy outcomes as members of the healthcare team. These pharmacists will exercise skills in education of other healthcare professionals and patients on drug-related topics. They will demonstrate competence by their clinical performance, exhibiting commitment to the profession, and exercising leadership in improving the safety of the medication-use system.

Rotations available include acute care medicine, cardiology, GI/hepatology, geriatrics, infectious diseases, long term care, critical care, neurology, oncology, pharmacy benefits management, drug information, ambulatory care, psychiatry, TPN as well as opportunities in pharmacy research, quality assurance, and departmental administration. Experiences for select elective rotations are offered at other divisions within VAGLAHS, including Los Angeles Ambulatory Care Center and Sepulveda Ambulatory Care Center. Focused areas of study are available in Ambulatory Care, Geriatrics, and Neurology.

VAGLAHS has established academic affiliations with USC, UCSF, UOP, and Western University Schools of Pharmacy. Residents also have ongoing teaching responsibilities to pharmacy students and other trainees, as well as hospital staff. The PGY1 Pharmacy Practice Residency at VAGLAHS is affiliated with the USC School of Pharmacy and offers residents the option of a teaching certificate and appointment as Adjunct Assistant Professor at the USC School of Pharmacy.



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Program Description

VAGLAHS PGY1 Pharmacy Practice Residents must successfully complete 8 six-week rotations. The 4 required rotations include acute care medicine, ambulatory care, critical care, and pharmacy benefits management. Residents may select 4 electives which can include rotations at either the Sepulveda Ambulatory Care Center and Nursing Home Care Unit or Los Angeles Ambulatory Care Center.

Program Components	Description
Rotation Selections <i>(Required rotations indicated in bold)</i>	Acute Care Medicine Pharmacy Benefits Management Ambulatory Care at one of the following sites West Los Angeles Campus Sepulveda Campus Los Angeles Campus Cardiology (CCU) or Critical Care (MICU) Gastroenterology/Hepatology Infectious Diseases Geriatrics, West Los Angeles Geriatrics, Sepulveda Neurology Oncology Psychiatry, Outpatient TPN/Surgery
Areas of Focused Studies <i>(Accomplished in 2 elective rotations)</i>	Ambulatory Care Geriatrics Neurology
Staffing Requirements	Residents are required to function as an inpatient pharmacist and cover the pharmacokinetics monitoring service for 1 day every weekend for 3 rotations of the year (total 18 weekend days). During the ambulatory care rotation(s), residents will assist in reviewing and finishing computerized orders.
Residency Research Project	Residents are required to complete a research project suitable for presentation at the Western States Conference for Pharmacy Residents, Fellows, and Preceptors. Residents are also required to complete and submit a manuscript for publication. In addition, USC affiliated residents are required to prepare a poster presentation of their research project.
Teaching Responsibilities	Residents will have the opportunity to precept Level IV UCSF, UOP, USC, and Western U pharmacy students, as well as Level I students and Pre-pharmacy students during their rotations. Residents also have the option of a joint academic appointment with the USC School of Pharmacy which offers opportunities to teach and lecture to Level II and Level III PharmD students. Residents are provided the opportunity to participate in various scheduled coursework and seminars developed to enhance the residency experience. Those residents participating in this affiliation will receive faculty appointment and earn a teaching certificate from the university. A separate interview with USC is required for this affiliation. Residents interested in the affiliation are also required to have an active California license.

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Application

Application Components	Requirements
Requirements for Consideration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doctor of Pharmacy degree from an ACPE accredited college of pharmacy • Licensing exam scheduled prior to July 1 of the residency year with licensure by September 30 of the residency year • License may be from any of the 50 states (California licensure required if USC affiliated) • US citizenship for Federal employment
Required Application Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VAGLAHS PGY1 Application • Letter of Intent • Curriculum Vitae (CV) • Three Letters of Recommendation, preferably from <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ One faculty ○ One employer ○ One clerkship preceptor <i>Please utilize forms provided with application packet</i> • Official Pharmacy School Transcript (which includes Fall rotation grades)

Applications must meet yearly established deadlines to be considered. Interviews will be offered to eligible candidates upon initial review of applications and is required for final consideration for this program. Please mail completed application packets and forward all inquiries to:

VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System
Pharmacy Service
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